

I Claim:

1. A method for managing water infiltrating a building at a window opening, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) from an inside of the building, accessing a gap formed at a base of the window opening between a window sill and a horizontal window framing member; and

(b) installing a flash pan within the gap to collect water entering the gap.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of installing comprises locating the flash pan at a bottom corner of the window opening adjacent a vertical window framing member extending perpendicularly upward from the horizontal window framing member.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the step of installing comprises locating a second flash pan at an opposite bottom corner of the window opening adjacent a second vertical window framing member extending perpendicularly upward from the horizontal window framing member.

4. A method according to claim 3, and comprising interconnecting the first and second flash pans through a connecting tube.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of accessing the gap comprises removing interior trim located adjacent the window opening.
6. A method according to claim 1, and comprising promoting the flow of water collecting in the flash pan towards an outlet formed in the flash pan.
7. A method according to claim 6, and comprising transporting the water from the outlet in the flash pan through a drain tube extending away from the gap.
8. A method according to claim 7, and comprising extending a free end of the drain tube through an exterior wall of the building to drain water outside of the building.
9. A system adapted for managing water infiltrating a building at a window opening, said system comprising:
  - (a) a flash pan for being located within a gap formed at a base of the window opening between a window sill and a horizontal window framing member, said flash pan operating to collect water entering the gap, and defining a sloped bottom wall for promoting the flow of water towards an outlet formed in said flash pan; and
  - (b) a drain tube communicating with the outlet of said flash pan and adapted for

transporting water collecting in said flash pan away from the gap.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said flash pan comprises opposing end dams.

11. A system according to claim 10, wherein said outlet is formed in at least one of said opposing end dams.

12. A system according to claim 9, and comprising a plurality of flash pans adapted for being located within the gap to collect water entering the gap.

13. A system according to claim 12, and comprising a connecting tube interconnecting said plurality of flash pans and communicating with said drain tube for transporting water collecting in said flash pans away from the gap.

14. A system according to claim 9, wherein said flash pan comprises longitudinal reinforcement ribs.

15. A system according to claim 9, and comprising a lateral support bridge extending from one side of said flash pan to the other.

16. In a window frame assembly comprising spaced-apart vertical framing members and horizontal top and bottom framing member cooperating to define a window opening, a system adapted for managing water infiltrating a building at said window opening, said system comprising:

- (a) a flash pan located within a gap formed at a base of said window opening between a window sill and the bottom horizontal framing member, said flash pan operating to collect water entering said gap, and defining a sloped bottom wall for promoting the flow of water towards an outlet formed in said flash pan; and
- (b) a drain tube communicating with the outlet of said flash pan and adapted for transporting water collecting in said flash pan away from the gap.

17. A window frame assembly according to claim 16, wherein said flash pan comprises opposing end dams.

18. A window frame assembly according to claim 17, wherein said pan outlet is formed in at least one of said opposing end dams.

19. A window frame assembly according to claim 16, and comprising a plurality of flash pans located within the gap to collect water entering the gap.
20. A window frame assembly according to claim 19, and comprising a connecting tube interconnecting said plurality of flash pans and communicating with said drain tube for transporting water collecting in said flash pans away from the gap.